

REMARKS

The present amendments and remarks are in response to the January 10, 2006 Office Action where the Examiner rejected or objected to all of the examined claims. Claims 14-30 were pending for consideration, and claims 1-13 and 31-47 have been withdrawn due to an Election/Restriction requirement. Claims 14-20, 25-28, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,165,606 (hereinafter "Kasahara"). Additionally, claims 22-23 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being allegedly anticipated by Kasahara as applied to claims 14-20, 25-28, and 30, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,129,785 (hereinafter "Schliesman"). Claims 21 and 24 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but it was indicated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By the present amendment, claim 14 has been amended and claim 24 has been canceled.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 14-20, 25-28, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Kasahara. As was suggested by the Examiner, claim 24 has been rewritten in independent form as claim 14. Accordingly, claim 24 has been canceled and all rejections under this section have been rendered moot.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 22-23 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being allegedly anticipated by Kasahara in further view of Schliesman. As the Examiner has indicated that claim 24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the amendments to claim 14 and the cancellation of claim 24 have also rendered the rejections under 103(a) moot.

With respect to both rejections herein, it should be noted that the Applicants are not making this amendment in agreement with the Examiner's position, but merely attempting to move the prosecution of this application forward. The Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue any deleted, canceled, or withdrawn matter in future applications.

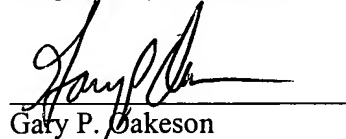
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants believe that claims 14-23 and 25-30 present allowable subject matter and allowance is respectfully requested. If any impediment to the allowance of these claims remains after consideration of the above remarks, and such impediment could be removed during a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone Brad Haymond at (541) 715-0159 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Please charge any additional fees except for Issue Fee or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Dated this 3rd day of April, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,



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